



# CITY OF HARTFORD

## HARTFORD FIRE DEPARTMENT

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**Pedro E. Segarra**  
Mayor

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Fire Chief \ Emergency  
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## **Personnel Protective Equipment and New Recruit Class Are Welcome Additions to the Hartford Fire Department**

### **---NEWS AND COMMUNITY RELEASE---**

#### **Personal Protective Equipment**

June 27, 2011 --- The Hartford Fire Department today announces the delivery of new Personal Protective Clothing for its firefighters. The new "Bunker Gear" is the protective clothing worn by firefighting crews when battling structural (building) fires or performing rescues.

The new personal protective clothing is an upgrade from the existing ensemble. The Department is returning to the traditional black color while maintaining the highest protection industry standards available. The features of the new personal protective clothing include an integrated Class 2 harness in the event a firefighter needs to escape from a structure. This enhancement alone provides for increased survival rate. Another new feature is the bi-flex knee pads, which are heat resistant and exceed the NFPA minimum standards.

Funding was secured through a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) in the amount of \$459,999.00. Each set of PPE costs approximately \$2500. The HFD is grateful to President Obama, Senators Lieberman and Blumenthal, and Congressman Larson for providing federal support making this grant money available to the City of Hartford.

Bunker Gear consists of a coat, pants and suspenders, waterproof boots, a strong helmet with eye protection, gloves, an integrated harness and SCBA (Self Contained Breathing Apparatus). When fully dressed, a firefighter will be wearing about 70lbs (32kg) of gear, not including any additional tools being carried. The bunker gear is made out of a fire-resistant fabric. The gear has reflective stripes to make them highly visible when a light is pointed at them.

#### **New Recruit Class**

Mayor Pedro E. Segarra, Fire Chief Edward Casares, Jr., and the Hartford Fire Department announce the hiring of 30 new recruit firefighters. These recruits will help alleviate any anticipated attrition. It is essential to maintain safe staffing levels. Hiring new firefighters at this time also gives the experienced firefighters an opportunity to mentor their peers.

Recruits will go through a vigorous training academy which lasts approximately 14 weeks and covers basic training in areas of fire suppression techniques, hazardous materials identification and defensive action, emergency medical training and station duties. Trainees are exposed to a paramilitary training environment enhancing their personal safety. They are taught proper chain of command and the life saving importance of following orders.